

June 20, 2005

News Release

VENEZUELAN PREDATOR ARRESTED BY ICE IN DELRAY BEACH

Predator now facing removal from the country

DELRAY BEACH- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents today arrested a 31-year-old predator convicted for fondling a 13-year-old girl.

Raul Reyes-Valdivieso, a citizen of Venezula was arrested by the Broward County Sheriff's Office (BSO) on Dec. 6, 2004. He was convicted and sentenced to seven years' probation on June 6, 2005.

Reyes-Valdivieso entered the country on Dec. 5, 2004 with a non-immigrant B-2 visa. ICE has subsequently placed him into removal proceedings for violating the terms of his visa. As an aggravated felon, he is subject to removal under Section 237 (a) (2) (A) (iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).

"Law enforcement partnerships are what keep predators like Reyes-Valdivieso off the streets," said Keith Perniciaro, acting special agent-in-charge in Miami. "BSO officers arrested and charged this monster and now we are doing our part to ensure that he is removed from the country."

"I'm glad that we were able to do our part in this case," said BSO Sheriff Ken Jenne. "Criminals who prey on children will find no place to hide in this hemisphere."

Reyes-Valdivieso is detained at the Krome Detention Center in Miami awaiting the outcome of his case.

Reyes-Valdivieso's arrest is part of a nationwide initiative known as Operation Predator. Operation Predator protects our children from sexual predators, including those who travel across continents to have sex with minors. Internet child pornographers and criminal alien sex offenders and child traffickers are also a priority for ICE. Since the initiative was launched in July of 2003, there have been more than 5,730 individuals arrested nationwide.

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ICE encourages anyone who wants to report suspicious activity of suspected child predators and suspicious activity through our toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or http://www.cybertipline.com.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.